

Edition:Edina

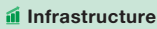
Volume 2, Issue 9

The City of Edina

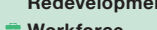


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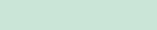
Legend:



Infrastructure



Commercial and Mixed-Use Redevelopment



Workforce



Communication and Engagement



Community Vision



Aviation Noise

Speak Up, Edina!

The City's next online discussion is now available at www.SpeakUpEdina.org. The discussion, which focuses on parks and programming, is available until Nov. 1.

The City has more than 30 neighborhood parks around the city, each unique in its own way with different amenities. Throughout the year, but primarily in the summer, the Parks & Recreation Department offers a variety of programming opportunities from Fab 4 & 5, Summer Playgrounds and sports camps to art classes, tennis lessons and adaptive recreation.

In this discussion, the City asks what residents think about Edina's neighborhood parks, what amenities they like and what they think could be added or improved, what they think about the Parks & Recreation Department's current offerings of programming and what classes and activities they'd like to see added in the future. The feedback from this discussion will be compiled and presented to the City Council Nov. 17.

This month, the City has been gathering feedback on Styrofoam containers. Questions asked include whether or not residents think Styrofoam containers should be banned in Edina; whether or not they think offering other non-Styrofoam containers are just as harmful as continuing use of Styrofoam; and if they would reuse, recycle or compost containers if Styrofoam were banned. The feedback from this discussion will be compiled and presented to the City Council Oct. 20.

To weigh in on a discussion, visit SpeakUpEdina.org.

Police 'Focus In' on School Speed Zones

School is in full swing and the outdoor activity around schools has increased. As a part of the 2015 "Focus In" campaign, Edina patrol officers will focus efforts on school speed zones during the month of October.

"Drivers entering school zones are mandated to reduce their speeds when children are present," said Sgt. Nate Mendel. "If caught speeding in a school zone, drivers must pay a \$378 fine."

According to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, "the school zone is legally defined as the section of road which abuts the school grounds, or where there is an established school crossing with advance school signs that designate the area."

The violations the Police Department "Focus In" on have seasonal relevance, affect the quality of life in Edina or pose safety risks to residents. All statutes are enforced year-round, but additional attention is paid to the focus of the month.

Each month, patrol officers focus police efforts on a specific statutory violation in order to educate the public and gain compliance. Education includes a warning to those who violate the statutes or codes. In extenuating circumstances, a citation may be issued. Last October, 141 verbal or written warnings were given out.

So far this year, Police have focused on obstructed vision, failure to signal, unsafe equipment, failure to display headlights, bike safety, following too close, pedestrian safety, child and seatbelt safety and texting and driving. In the coming months, police will "Focus In" on night and snow parking and the "move over" law.

For more information, contact the Edina Police Department at 952-826-1610.



City Finishes Renovations at Pamela Park

After more than a year of construction and much anticipation, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 30, at Pamela Park.

"The grand opening is a time to celebrate the new facility," said Parks & Recreation Assistant Director Susan Faus. "We're looking forward to the ribbon cutting and showing the community around."

Since the spring of 2014, the park at 4303 W. 58th St. has been updated in many ways, including a new synthetic turf field that includes a weather-proofed retaining wall around the perimeter to allow seating for sporting events.

"It is one of the most heavily used parks in Edina because of all the sports going on," explained Faus.

After taking a break from construction in the fall of 2014 due to weather conditions, the renovations continued in the spring of 2015. These included a new sand peat field, a regraded grass field, expansion of three parking lots and extended wide-paved trails. In addition, the park received wetland seeding, two concrete slabs for concession trailers to accommodate food trucks, and new curb-and-gutter pavement on the north drive.

"We had a bit of a problem with traffic in and around the park; there wasn't quite enough parking," said Faus. "With the additional parking stalls, it will accommodate the traffic from sporting events."

One of the largest updates to the park is the new shelter building, which was completely rebuilt. The new facility features restrooms, large seating area, and storage for park maintenance and athletic associations. It will be used as a warming house in the winter and is available for rent for events such as birthdays and reunions.

"We are thrilled to see the master plan of Pamela Park finally come to fruition. The renovation is a wonderful balance of environmental protection and enhancement, much needed athletic fields and amenities like trails, safer park access, improved parking and a new shelter building that will be utilized by all residents of Edina," said Parks & Recreation Director Ann Kattreh. "It's so rewarding to already see residents enjoying the new and improved amenities!"

For more information, contact Faus at sfaus@EdinaMN.gov or 952-826-0390.

Northwest Airlines Employees Recognized With New Sculptures at Centennial Lakes

The collection of public art at Centennial Lakes Park is expanding with three new sculptures recognizing late Edina-resident Donald Nyrop, former CEO of Northwest Airlines (NWA), and the contributions the men and women of NWA gave to the growth of commercial aviation.

Nick Legeros, Edina resident and winner of the 2014 Public Art People's Choice Award for his sculpture "Leaping Hare," was commissioned to create the sculptures. Legeros is the artist behind many other popular Edina sculptures, including "Reflecting on Friendship" outside the Hughes Pavilion at Centennial Lakes Park and "The McCurdy Bench" and "Treehouse" at Highlands Elementary School.

The three new pieces are aviation themed to honor former NWA employees and Nyrop and will be located on the east side of the park. The first bronze sculptures installed, "Dreams Take Flight," are of a 5-year-old boy and a 10-year-old girl perched on separate stones dreaming of the future of aviation while playing with model airplanes, a Convair 580 and a Boeing 747. Another sculpture is scheduled to be installed in October and is called "The Glamorous Days of Flight." It depicts a family boarding an aircraft in the 1960s, when flying was novel and prestigious.

"After interviewing past employees, most talked about when they first started back in the '60s – everybody from



Photo by Mike Vacanti

Nick Legeros casts his bronze sculptures through a labor-intensive process known as "lost-wax" casting. This method allows the sculptor to capture intricate details in wet clay before working with metal alloys.

the pilots down to the guys who tossed the baggage around ... felt that working in the airlines was kind of a glamorous position," explained Legeros. "And when people flew back then, they dressed up, they looked great and it was a big deal to fly. So, when I had to represent 40,000 people, across all these different occupations, I really wanted to show what they delivered, which was that elegant experience of flight."

The Edina Community Foundation served as the charitable giving partner for this enterprise, collecting money for the sculptures from former NWA employees. The donors have also offered to "adopt" the section of the park where the sculptures are located.

"A couple of years ago, [a former airline employee] came to us with a plan to memorialize Northwest Airlines as a corporate home for many people, including its CEO, Don Nyrop," explained Edina Community Foundation Executive Director Dick Crockett. "His plan [came to include] a series of sculptures in Centennial Lakes Park along the walkway and an area of the park set aside for these sculptures."

Legeros worked hard to meet the donors' objectives. "[These sculptures] pay tribute to all these men and women to an airline that doesn't exist anymore and ... if I can get one person to think of Northwest Airlines, then I've done my job with these sculptures," said Legeros.

Council Approves Preliminary Budget, Levy

At its Sept. 1 meeting, the Edina City Council approved the 2016 preliminary City operating budget and property tax levy. A public hearing will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, on the final budget and levy.

The proposed maximum tax levies for 2016 is \$31.8 million. The total of all levies would increase by 7.07 percent. By setting the preliminary budget and levy, the City must submit it to the County Auditor so parcel-specific notices can be sent in November.

The budget includes \$25 million for the City's general fund, \$1.68 million for the construction fund, \$20,000 for the arts and culture fund and \$4.5 million for outstanding capital improvement plan and Housing & Redevelopment Authority bonds, which are debts issued for improvements.

The budget is considered "status quo." Expenses are tracking about the same as the last budget cycle; however, revenues have decreased. Due in large part to revenue loss at Edina Liquor, taxes will need to increase to retain current City service levels.

"The proposed budget for 2016 extends our existing staffing and service levels from this year to next year with no significant changes," said City Manager Scott Neal. "Council asked staff to look at alternative budget plans that would decrease our proposed property tax levy. We're going to carry out that directive, but decreasing our budget likely means decreasing our service levels, and that won't be popular either."

Finance Director Eric Roggeman said there are several challenges that affect the preliminary budget, including wage increases, health insurance premiums, increase of one full-time employee since the 2014-2015 budget was adopted, expected decrease of Centennial Lakes and Edinborough reserve funds, increased service expectations for all departments, and lower profits from Edina Liquor.

The transfer from Edina Liquor's profits to the City's general fund is expected to be about \$665,000 short.

"While Edina Liquor is still profitable, it's less profitable due to increased competition," Roggeman said. A portion of the decrease is absorbed by the general fund while the rest means less money is transferred to enterprise facilities, he explained.

The preliminary budget does not include new staff requested by directors, GIS upgrades, the purchase of Weber Woods and many work plan items, Roggeman said.

For a median-valued single-family home in Edina priced at about \$457,300, the 7.07 percent levy increase would mean a 6 percent property tax increase of the City's portion. This would equate to a \$71 annual increase or about \$6 per month. The total of the City's portion of property taxes paid for a median-valued home would be about \$106 per month for city services.

Roggeman expects that Edina will continue to have the lowest tax rate among our neighboring cities. For a single family home, about 20 percent of property taxes go to the City.

At the meeting, the City Council requested that staff also develop budgets with 5 and 6 percent increases. Those budget models, along with any reduction in spending or service levels, will be presented to the City Council later this fall.

The City Council will hold a public hearing and finalize the budget and levy in December. The final levy may be less than or equal to, but not higher than, the preliminary levy.

For more information, contact Roggeman at 952-826-0414.



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Be aware when turning left.



Made possible through support from the Statewide Health Improvement Program, Minnesota Department of Health.

Commercial Development Tracker

In this commercial development tracker, the City of Edina includes commercial reconstruction projects or new constructions that have been completed in the last 12 months, are currently under construction, have filed a formal application to the City, have been approved or have presented a non-binding sketch plan to either the Planning Commission or the City Council. For more information, visit www.EdinaMN.gov/Planning or contact the Community Development Department Planning Division at 952-826-0369.

- 1

Business/Project: Grandview/Former Public Works site

Location: 5146 Eden Ave.

Developer: Unknown

Status: In Progress

The City of Edina is in the process of determining what mix of public and private uses could best work on the site and what a new development on the site could look like.
- 2

Business/Project: The Link

Location: 4901, 1815, 4820, 4600, 4660, 4510, 4530, 4550 W. 77th St. and 7600 Parklawn Ave.

Developer: Hillcrest Development

Status: Unknown

The developer plans to redevelop the 43-acre site in southeast Edina. The plan may include 1.4 million square feet of office space, 40,000 square feet of retail and a 400-room hotel. The six-story tower at 4640 W. 77th St. was torn down late last year.
- 3

Business/Project: Braemar Field and the Backyard Rink

Location: 7501 Ikola Way

Developer: City of Edina

Status: Complete

This project is complete. The project included an outdoor, covered refrigerated ice rink and a seasonally domed 100,000-square-foot athletic field.
- 4

Business/Project: Grandview Townhomes

Location: 5109-5125 W. 49th St.

Developer: Hunt Associates

Status: On Hold

The developer planned to raze the existing buildings and construct a new 17-unit attached housing development on the 1.43-acre site.
- 5

Business/Project: 50th & France Ramps

Location: 50th & France

Developer: City of Edina

Status: Complete

In 2014, the City of Edina completed upgrades to the parking ramps at 50th & France, including new paint, parking surfaces, LED lighting, way-finding signage and other maintenance. The City also acquired property at 3930 and 3944 W. 49 1/2 St. to expand parking. The City is currently weighing its options with the sites.
- 6

Business/Project: Lunds & Byerlys

Location: 7171 France Ave. S.

Developer: Lund Food Holdings

Status: Complete

Construction is complete on a 47,000-square-foot Byerly's store. The new store opened in fall 2014.
- 6

Business/Project: 71 France

Location: 7161 France Ave.

Developer: Lund Food Holdings

Status: In Progress

Construction is under way on a seven-story, 109-unit apartment building with 10,450 square feet of retail; another six-story, 77-unit apartment building with 10,711 square feet of retail; and a six-story, 48-unit apartment building with 11,162 square feet of retail. All three buildings will include two levels of underground parking.
- 7

Business/Project: Think Bank

Location: 3655 Hazelton Road

Developer: HTG Architects

Status: Complete

A restaurant was razed and replaced with an 8,441-square-foot, two story bank. The bank includes a drive-thru, meeting/training room, employee lounge and a rooftop patio.
- 8

Business/Project: Fairview Southdale Hospital

Location: 6401 France Ave. S.

Developer: Brian Lubben, Walker & Associates/Fairview Southdale Hospital

Status: Complete

Construction finished last month on a new 89,000-square-foot expansion of the hospital's emergency room.
- 9

Business/Project: Aurora on France

Location: 4005 W. 65th St. & 6500 France Ave.

Developer: Aurora Investments, LLC/Mount Development.

Status: In Progress

Construction has begun on a 220,000-square-foot, five-story, 195-unit senior care building. The plan includes one level of underground parking.
- 10

Business/Project: Southdale Medical Center

Location: 6545 France Ave. S.

Developer: Oak Development

Status: In Progress

The developer is expanding the existing building and constructing a four-story, 60,000-square-foot addition and expanding the parking ramp. This project is nearing completion.
- 11

Business/Project: The Onyx

Location: 6725 York Ave. S.

Developer: Lennar

Status: In Progress

The developer razed the existing commercial building and single-family homes and is in the very beginning stage of construction. A six-story, 296,000-square-foot building with 242 luxury apartments and 12,000 square feet of first-floor retail are planned.
- 12

Business/Project: One Southdale Place

Location: One Southdale Place

Developer: Stuart Co.

Status: Complete

Construction is finished on 3-, 5- and 10-story apartment buildings containing 232 luxury units.
- 13

Business/Project: Restaurant

Location: 7700 France Ave.

Developer: Frauenshuh, Inc./Parasole Restaurant Holdings

Status: Approved

The developer received approval to build a 7,600-square-foot freestanding seafood restaurant. The building will have seating for up to 242 diners and an outdoor seating area and bar along France Avenue.

